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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/790,017	03/02/2004	Naoto Yajima	249455US0	3570
22850	7590	06/13/2006		
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				
			EXAMINER BERNATZ, KEVIN M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

1773

DATE MAILED: 06/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/790,017

Applicant(s)

YAJIMA ET AL.

Examiner

Kevin M. Bernatz

Art Unit

1773

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-5 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/2/04.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election with traverse of Group I in the reply filed on March 29, 2006 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that "the Examiner has given no reasons to support the assertion that the product of Group II (sic) ... could be produced by holding the tape at a temperature above 60 °C or below 40 °C to produce the predetermined curvature in the product of the process of the claims of Group I". This is not found persuasive because the Examiner notes that the product of Group II does not require any specific curvature and that simply splicing a tape at room temperature will result in one edge of the tape being longer than the other. With regard to applicants' assertion that there is no undo burden, this is not found persuasive since the examiner reminds applicant(s) that a separate classification is a *prima facie* showing of a serious burden (see MPEP § 803). In addition, while the search may be overlapping, there is no reason to believe the search would be coextensive. The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Specification

2. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The following title is suggested: after the first occurrence of "Tape", the following phrase should be inserted: "Having Controlled Curvature and/or Edge Lengths".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

4. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as based on a disclosure which is not enabling. The method by which the curvature is measured is deemed critical or essential to the practice of the invention, but not included in the claim(s) is not enabled by the disclosure. See *In re Mayhew*, 527 F.2d 1229, 188 USPQ 356 (CCPA 1976). This rejection can be overcome by including the method by which the curvature is measured in claim 7.

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Claims 6 – 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The limitations “a reference edge side” and “the other side” are not adequately defined by either the specification or the claims. For the purpose of evaluating the prior art, the Examiner notes that any side can be construed as the “reference edge side” and any additional side can be construed as the “other side”. The Examiner notes that since we live in a 3-dimensional world, a tape has at least 6 edges/sides.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

(f) he did not himself invent the subject matter sought to be patented.

8. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and/or (f) as being anticipated by the general knowledge in the art.

The Examiner notes that the broadest reasonable interpretation of the language of claim 6 merely requires a magnetic tape having one edge which is shorter in length than another. The Examiner notes that this has existed since the very first magnetic tape was ever invented and, hence, applicants are not the inventor of a rectangular (i.e. one edge shorter in length than the other) shaped recording tape. The Examiner notes that one need only look at the old 8-track tapes or 70's cassettes to see that the tape is not square shaped.

9. Claims 6 – 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hattori et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,958,565).

Regarding claim 6, Hattori et al. disclose a linear-recording magnetic tape having an edge on a reference edge side shorter in length than that on the other side (*col. 21, lines 43 – 59 – where the Examiner notes that $3.8\text{ mm} < 100\text{ mm}$*).

Regarding claim 7, Hattori et al. disclose measuring curl (i.e. “curvature”) in substantially the same manner as applicants and controlling the curvature to be within applicants’ claimed range limitations (*Figure and col. 17, line 59 bridging col. 18, line 43*).

Regarding claim 8, Hattori et al. disclose magnetic layer thickness values meeting applicants’ claimed range (*col. 18, lines 44 – 52*).

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Stewart et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,356,682) teach that it is known in the film art to cut a film at a diagonal in order to facilitate splicing (thereby resulting in a film wherein one lateral edge is longer in length than the opposite side lateral edge) (*Figure 7 and col. 1, lines 1 – 64*).

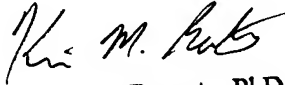
11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin M. Bernatz whose telephone number is (571) 272-1505. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carol Chaney can be reached on (571) 272-1284. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

KMB
June 7, 2006


Kevin M. Bernatz, PhD
Primary Examiner